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Title: Need to settle the amount of ex-gratia payment and bonus to the contract labourers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): There are thirteen thousand contract labourers with a matching number of permanent employees in the Neyveli unit of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NIC). Though this contract labour work in all the units wherever permanent employees work, they do not get same pay for same work. When permanent workers were paid bonus, the contract labour were not paid bonus on the plea that negotiations with them were not completed. They were paid an advance of Rs. 1500/-on a condition that it would be deducted from the *ex gratia* payment or the bonus to be decided in the talks. But in November last before the completion of any such talk NLC began to deduct the advance money from the wages of the contract labour. This led to a flash strike in which both the permanent workers and contract labourers participated. Now, even after four months, the talks about *ex gratia* payment and bonus has not even commenced. Both in IOC and BSNL talks on bonus started simultaneously both for permanent workers and the contract labourers. Monthly wages are being paid to contract labours. Hence, I urge upon the Union Ministry of Coal to immediately complete the talks and decide the extent of *ex gratia* payment and bonus making it mandatory to work contractors before NLC could go into regularization and extending of PF, ESI and gratuity to workers.